AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A transaction coordinating device for coordinating an insertion

of a spot transaction based on a temporary contract being made without respect to a fixed

transaction based on a contract of predetermined term, said spot transaction comprising a

transaction based on a one-time sales contract or based on an intermittent supply contract

which is completed in a few times, said fixed transaction comprising a long-term stable

offtake contract of predetermined term in which transportation schedules can be confirmed at

least about a year before, said transaction coordinating device comprising:

means for arranging an insertion of a cargo transportation relating to said spot

transaction into a predetermined schedule of a cargo transportation relating to said fixed

transaction of predetermined term, said insertion being arranged by adjusting the

predetermined schedule of said cargo transportation relating to said fixed transaction of

predetermined term; and

means for delivering sales data of the spot transaction to participants in the spot

transaction and to the insertion arrangement means and delivering transportation adjusting

data from the insertion arrangement means to the participants in the spot transaction,

wherein:

said insertion arrangement means arranges an adjustment of cargo transportations in a

first transportation schedule by an insertion of a cargo transportation of said spot transaction

without changing said first transportation schedule,

said first transportation schedule comprising shipping dates, unload dates, minimum

days of navigation, and scheduled days of navigation for one or more freighters,

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said adjustment of cargo transportations comprising a first freighter in said first transportation schedule being allocated as an additional freighter and a remainder of freighters in said first transportation schedule being shifted sequentially to be allocated to an original ~~purchaser~~scheduled transportation of said first transportation schedule,

said insertion arrangement means arranges an insertion of a cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing said first transportation schedule only in an event that the cargo transportation adjustment is impossible,

said changing of said first transportation schedule comprising changing one or more of a date when a freighter ships, a date when a freighter unloads, and a number of days a freighter is under navigation,

said insertion arrangement means arranges an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing a second transportation schedule within a certain range only in an event that the first transportation schedule changing is impossible,

said changing of second transportation schedule comprising one or more of moving a freighter from said second transportation schedule into said first transportation schedule and moving a freighter from said first transportation schedule into said second transportation schedule, and

said insertion arrangement means arranges an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing another transportation schedule within a range to which said certain range is expanded only in an event that the second transportation schedule changing is impossible, an adjustment or change being impossible if said adjustment or change would result in a failure to comply with terms of a fixed transaction.

2.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 1,

further comprising:

means for storing data associated with said transportation, wherein

said insertion arrangement means arranges an insertion of said cargo transportation of

said spot transaction based on data associated with said transportation transmitted from said

transportation data storing means.

3.   (Currently Amended) A transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 1,

further comprising:

means for storing data associated with said ~~transportation;~~transportation, wherein

said insertion arrangement means arranges an insertion of a cargo transportation of

said spot transaction based on data associated with conditions of said spot transaction

transmitted from said sales data delivering means and said transportation transmitted from

said transportation data storing means.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 1,

wherein:

a commodity involved in said transaction comprises liquefied natural gas,

containers containing said liquefied natural gas transported on a sea or on a road are

used in said transportation, and

said cargo transportations are constrained by requirements of transporting liquefied

natural gas.

6.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 5 for

coordinating an insertion of a cargo transportation of said spot transaction based on at least a

predetermined number of days of operation and an actually required minimum number of

days of operation of a freighter under navigation,

wherein said predetermined number of days of operation is greater than or equal to

said actually required minimum number of days of operation.

7.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 1,

further comprising:

a terminal of a participant of said spot transaction connected to said insertion

arrangement means and said sales data delivering means via a communications circuit,

wherein said spot transaction is conducted between said terminal operated by a

participant of said spot transaction and said insertion arrangement means and said sales data

delivering means of said transaction coordinating device.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method of coordinating transactions and delivering cargo

associated with said coordinated transactions applicable at inserting a spot transaction based

on a temporary contract being made without respect to a fixed transaction based on a contract

of predetermined term, said spot transaction comprising a transaction based on a one-time

sales contract or based on an intermittent supply contract which is completed in a few times,

said fixed transaction comprising a long-term stable offtake contract of predetermined term in

which transportation schedules can be confirmed at least about a year before,

said method comprising:

setting a first transportation schedule of cargo transportation relating to said fixed

transaction:transaction, and, concurrently, storing data associated with transportation in

advance;

reading the data associated with said transportation in an event said spot transaction

arises;

arranging an insertion of cargo transportation relating to said spot transaction by

adjusting thesaid first transportation schedule of cargo transportation relating to said fixed

transaction-based on the read data associated with said transportation;

and loading, transporting, and delivering said cargo in accordance with said schedule,

wherein an arrangement of insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction is

conducted sequentially by:

a first stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

transaction without changing said first transportation schedule if such insertion is not

impossible;

a second stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

transaction by changing said first transportation schedule, only in an event that the first stage

arrangement is impossible;

a third stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

transaction by changing anothera second transportation schedule within a certain range, only

in an event that the first and second stage arrangements are impossible; and

a fourth stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

transaction by changing said second~~another~~ transportation schedule within a range to which

said certain range is expanded, only in an event that the first, second and third stage

arrangements are impossible,

said first transportation schedule comprising shipping dates, unload dates, minimum

days of navigation, and scheduled days of navigation for one or more freighters,

said first stage of insertion of cargo transportations comprising a first freighter in said

first transportation schedule being allocated as an additional freighter and a remainder of

freighters in said first transportation schedule being shifted sequentially to be allocated to an

original purchaser of said first transportation schedule,

said second stage of changing said first transportation schedule comprising changing

one or more of a date when a freighter ships, a date when a freighter unloads, and a number

of days a freighter is under navigation,

said third stage of changing said second transportation schedule comprising one or

more of moving a freighter from said second transportation schedule into said first

transportation schedule and moving a freighter from said first transportation schedule into

said second transportation schedule,

an adjustment or change being impossible if said adjustment or change would result in

a failure to comply with terms of a fixed transaction.

9.   (Currently Amended) A method of coordinating transactions and delivering cargo

associated with said coordinated transactions applicable at inserting a spot transaction based

on a temporary contract made without respect to a fixed transaction based on a contract of

predetermined term, said spot transaction comprising a transaction based on a one-time sales

contract or based on an intermittent supply contract which is completed in a few times, said

fixed transaction comprising a long-term stable offtake contract of predetermined term in

which transportation schedules can be confirmed at least about a year before, said method

comprising:

setting, in advance, a schedule of commodity transportation relating to said fixed

transaction and storing data associated with transportation;

when a party on one side of said spot transaction inputs delivery conditions relating to

said spot transaction with respect to a party on the other side of said spot transaction, reading

data associated with said transportation and conditions of said spot transaction in an event

that said spot transaction is organized based on delivery conditions of said spot transaction;

~~and~~

arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction by adjusting the

schedule of commodity transportation of said fixed transportation, based on the read data

associated with said transportation and the conditions of said spot ~~transaction.~~transaction;

and loading, transporting, and delivering said cargo in accordance with said schedule,

wherein an arrangement of insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction is

conducted sequentially by:

a first stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

transaction without changing said transportation schedule if such insertion is not impossible;

a second stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

transaction by changing said transportation schedule, only in an event that the first stage

arrangement is impossible;

a third stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

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transaction by changing another transportation schedule within a certain range, only in an event that the first and second stage arrangements are impossible; and

a fourth stage of arranging an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing another transportation schedule within a range to which said certain range is expanded, only in an event that the first, second and third stage arrangements are impossible,

said first transportation schedule comprising shipping dates, unload dates, minimum days of navigation, and scheduled days of navigation for one or more freighters,

said first stage of insertion of cargo transportations comprising a first freighter in said first transportation schedule being allocated as an additional freighter and a remainder of freighters in said first transportation schedule being shifted sequentially to be allocated to an original purchaser of said first transportation schedule,

said second stage of changing said first transportation schedule comprising changing one or more of a date when a freighter ships, a date when a freighter unloads, and a number of days a freighter is under navigation,

said third stage of changing said second transportation schedule comprising one or more of moving a freighter from said second transportation schedule into said first transportation schedule and moving a freighter from said first transportation schedule into said second transportation schedule,

an adjustment or change being impossible if said adjustment or change would result in a failure to comply with terms of a fixed transaction.

10.   (Canceled)

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11.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating method as claimed in claim 8,

wherein:

    a commodity involved in said transaction comprises a liquefied natural gas,

    containers containing said liquefied natural gas transported on a sea or on a road are

used in said transportation, and

    said cargo transportations are constrained by requirements of transporting liquefied

natural gas.

12.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating method as claimed in claim 11 for

adjusting an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction based on at least a

predetermined number of days of operation and an actually required minimum number of

days of operation of a freighter under navigation,

    wherein said predetermined number of days of operation is greater than or equal to

said actually required minimum number of days of operation.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which is stored a

program of instructions ~~for~~which when executed by a digital device causes an inserting_of a

spot transaction based on a temporary contract, said temporary contract being made without

respect to a fixed transaction based on a contract of predetermined term, said spot transaction

comprising a transaction based on a one-time sales contract or based on an intermittent

supply contract which is completed in a few times, said fixed transaction comprising a long-

term stable offtake contract of predetermined term in which transportation schedules can be

confirmed at least about a year before, which program when executed by a digital device

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causes the enactment of the steps of:

reading previously stored data associated with transportation in an event that said spot transaction arises; and

adjusting an insertion of cargo transaction relative to said spot transaction with respect to a schedule of cargo transportation relative to said fixed transaction of predetermined term, based on the read data associated with said transportation,

said adjusting of cargo transportations comprising a first freighter in said schedule being allocated as an additional freighter and a remainder of freighters in said schedule being shifted sequentially to be allocated to an original purchaser of said schedule,

wherein the program executes the adjustment of the insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transactions sequentially by:

a first step of adjusting the insertion of the cargo transportation of said spot transaction without changing said transportation schedule;

a second step of adjusting the insertion of the cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing said transportation schedule, only in an event that the first step is impossible, said changing of said transportation schedule comprising changing one or more of a date when a freighter ships, a date when a freighter unloads, and a number of days a freighter is under navigation;

a third step of adjusting the insertion of the cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing another transportation schedule within a certain range, only in an event that the second step is impossible, said changing of said another transportation schedule comprising one or more of moving a freighter from said another transportation schedule into said transportation schedule and moving a freighter from said transportation schedule into

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said another transportation schedule; and

a fourth step of adjusting the insertion of the cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing another transportation schedule within a range to which said certain range is expanded, only in an event that the third step is impossible,

an adjustment or change being impossible if said adjustment or change would result in a failure to comply with terms of a fixed transaction.

14.-15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which is stored a program of instructions forwhich when executed by a digital device causes an inserting of a spot transaction based on a temporary contract as claimed in claim 13, wherein a commodity of said transaction comprises a liquefied natural gas and containers containing said liquefied natural gas transported on a sea or on a road are used in said transportation, and said cargo transportations are constrained by requirements of transporting liquefied natural gas.

17.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which is stored a program of instructions forwhich when executed by a digital device causes an inserting of a spot transaction based on a temporary contract as claimed in claim 16 for adjusting the insertion of cargo transportation of said spot transaction as based on at least a predetermined number of days of operation and an actually required minimum number of days of operation of a freighter under navigation,

wherein said predetermined number of days of operation is greater than or equal to

said actually required minimum number of days of operation.

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable program product ~~containing~~on which is stored a computer program ~~for~~which when executed by a digital device causes an inserting of a spot transaction based on a temporary contract, said temporary contract being made without respect to a fixed transaction based on a contract of predetermined term, said spot transaction comprising a transaction based on a one-time sales contract or based on an intermittent supply contract which is completed in a few times, said fixed transaction comprising a long-term stable offtake contract of predetermined term in which transportation schedules can be confirmed at least about a year before, said program product when executed by a digital device thereby comprising:

a means for reading previously stored data associated with transportation in an event said spot transaction arises; and

a means for adjusting an insertion of cargo transportation relative to said spot transaction with respect to a previously set schedule of one or more of single and plural cargo transportations relative to said fixed transaction based on a read data associated with said transportation,

said adjustment of cargo transportations comprising a first freighter in said previously set schedule being allocated as an additional freighter and a remainder of freighters in said previously set schedule being shifted sequentially to be allocated to an original purchaser of said first transportation schedule,

wherein the program executes sequentially by:

a first means for adjusting the insertion of a cargo transportation of said spot

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transaction without changing said transportation schedule;

a-second means for adjusting the insertion of a cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing said transportation schedule, only in an event that the first means adjustment is impossible, said changing of said transportation schedule comprising changing one or more of a date when a freighter ships, a date when a freighter unloads, and a number of days a freighter is under navigation;

a-third means for adjusting the insertion of a cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing another transportation schedule within a certain range, only in an event that the second means adjustment is impossible,

said changing of another transportation schedule comprising one or more of moving a freighter from said another transportation schedule into said transportation schedule and moving a freighter from said transportation schedule into said another transportation schedule; and

a-fourth means for adjusting the insertion of a cargo transportation of said spot transaction by changing another transportation schedule within a range to which said certain range is expanded, only in an event that the third means adjustment is impossible,

an adjustment or change being impossible if said adjustment or change would result in a failure to comply with terms of a fixed transaction.

19.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A program product <u>on which is stored an executable computer</u>

program as claimed in claim 18, wherein a commodity involved in said transaction comprises

a liquefied natural gas and containers containing said liquefied natural gas transported on a

sea or on a road are used in said transportation, and

said cargo transportations are constrained by requirements of transporting liquefied

natural gas.

22.   (Currently Amended) A program product on which is stored an executable computer

program as claimed in claim 21 for adjusting an insertion of cargo transportation of said spot

transaction, wherein said adjusting is based on at least a predetermined number of days of

operation and an actually required minimum number of days of operation of a freighter under

navigation,

wherein said predetermined number of days of operation is greater than or equal to

said actually required minimum number of days of operation.

23.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating system comprising:

the transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 2; and

a terminal of a participant of said spot transaction connected to said transaction

coordinating device via a communications circuit, wherein

said spot transaction is conducted between said terminal operated by the participant of

said spot transaction and said transaction coordinating device.

24.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating system comprising:

the transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 3; and

a terminal of a participant of said spot transaction connected to said transaction coordinating device via a communications circuit, wherein

said spot transaction is conducted between said terminal operated by the participant of said spot transaction and said transaction coordinating device.

25.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating system comprising:

the transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 1; and

a terminal of a participant of said spot transaction connected to said transaction coordinating device via a communications circuit, wherein

said spot transaction is conducted between said terminal operated by the participant of said spot transaction and said transaction coordinating device.

26.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating system comprising:

the transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 5; and

a terminal of a participant of said spot transaction connected to said transaction coordinating device via a communications circuit, wherein

said spot transaction is conducted between said terminal operated by the participant of said spot transaction and said transaction coordinating device.

27.   (Previously Presented) A transaction coordinating system comprising:

the transaction coordinating device as claimed in claim 6; and

a terminal of a participant of said spot transaction connected to said transaction coordinating device via a communications circuit, wherein

said spot transaction is conducted between said terminal operated by the participant of

said spot transaction and said transaction coordinating device.